

Example. IQ scores are normally distributed with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. A sample of 25 persons is drawn. How likely is it to get a sample average of 108 or more? (0.38%) How likely is it for the first score to be 108 or more? (29.8%)

$$Z = \frac{\bar{y} - \mu_y}{\frac{\sigma_y}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{108 - 100}{\frac{15}{\sqrt{25}}} = +2.67$$

$$Z = \frac{\bar{y} - \mu_y}{\frac{\sigma_y}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{108 - 100}{\frac{15}{\sqrt{1}}} = +.53$$

Example: The Recall of Governor Davis in October 2003, Final Count (population) Treat the YES=1 and the NO=0

Davis	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
NO	3,559,436	44.63	44.63
YES	4,415,398	55.37	100.00
Total	7,974,834	100.00	

Davis					
Percentiles	Smallest				
1%	0	0			
5%	0	0			
10%	0	0	Obs		7974834
25%	0	0	Sum of Wgt.		7974834
50%	1		Mean		.5536664
		Largest	Std. Dev.		.4971116
75%	1	1			
90%	1	1	Variance		.2471199
95%	1	1	Skewness		-.2159131
99%	1	1	Kurtosis		1.046618

The chance of getting a sample proportion (p-hat) as low as 51% or lower from a single sample of 100 is:

$$Z = \frac{\hat{p} - p}{\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}} = \frac{.51 - .5537}{\sqrt{\frac{.5537(.4463)}{100}}} = \frac{-.0437}{\sqrt{\frac{.2471}{100}}} \approx -.88$$

We use a Z score because our one sample comes from a much larger sampling distribution which is normal. The area to the left of -.88 is .1894 or they had a 18.94% chance of getting a sample proportion as low as or lower than 51% (when the true proportion was 55.37%)

Formulas for sample means and sample proportions

To use the normal calculation (Z score) for sample means, you should

1. have a sample size of at least 50 and
2. the sample size should not be larger than 5% of the population.

The formula is then:

$$Z = \frac{\bar{y} - \mu_Y}{\frac{\sigma_Y}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

To use the normal calculation (Z score) for sample proportions, you should meet the following conditions

1. $np > 10$ & $nq > 10$
2. The sample size can't be larger than 10% of the population

$$Z = \frac{\hat{p} - p}{\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}}$$

In either case, the samples should be random for this to work.